

B. Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a call back option to a customer of a call center, comprising:

a telecommunications switch;

an automatic call distributor in communication with the telecommunications switch via first and second communications links;

means for providing the customer with a call back option to call back the call back center during a specified time period in response to a first call from the customer to the call center, wherein the first call is routed to the automatic call distributor by the telecommunications switch over the first communications link; and

means for establishing a second call between the automatic call distributor and the customer during the specified time period over the second communications link based on an acceptance of the call back option by the customer, wherein the second call is initiated by the customer and bypasses one or more call waiting queues associated with the call center such that the second call is given a priority greater than one or more pending calls associated with the call center.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for providing the customer with a call back option includes means for providing the customer with a call back option when the call center is busy.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the means for providing the customer with a call back option when the call center is busy includes means for providing the customer with a call back option based on the time of the first call from the customer.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the means for providing the customer with a call back option when the call center is busy includes means for providing the customer with a call back option based on an indication from the call center.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for providing the customer with a call back option includes means for playing a message for the customer regarding the call back option and for determining the acceptance of the call back option by the customer.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for providing the customer with a call back option and the means for establishing a second call includes a call back service platform in communication with the automatic call distributor.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the means for providing the customer with a call back option includes an incoming call processing module in communication with the automatic call distributor; and

the means for establishing a second call includes a return call processing module in communication with the automatic call distributor.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the incoming call processing module is for playing a message providing the customer with the call back option in response to the automatic call distributor receiving the first call, and for detecting the acceptance of the call back option in response to the message.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the return call processing module is for placing establishing the second call to ~~the customer~~ based on a customer identification stored subsequent to the acceptance of the call back option by the customer.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the means for providing the customer with a call back option includes:

a service control point in communication with the telecommunications switch; and

an intelligent peripheral in communication with the service control point;

and

the means for establishing the second call includes the service control point.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second communications links includes a trunk circuit.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a call back option to a customer of a call center, comprising:

a telecommunications switch;

an automatic call distributor in communication with the telecommunications switch via first and second communications links; and

a call back service platform in communication with the automatic call distributor;

wherein the telecommunications switch is for routing a first call to the call center from the customer to the automatic call distributor via the first communications link; and
the

wherein the call back service platform is for:

providing the customer with a call back option to call back the call back center during a specified time period in response to the first call from the customer[[.]]; and for

establishing a second call between the automatic call distributor and the customer during the specified time period over the second communications link based on an acceptance of the call back option by the customer, wherein the second call is initiated by the customer and bypasses one or more call waiting queues associated with the call center such that the second call is given a priority greater than one or more pending calls associated with the call center.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A call center, comprising:
an automatic call distributor; and
a call back service platform in communication with the automatic call distributor,
wherein the call back service platform is for:
providing a customer with a call back option to call back the call back
center during a specified time period, wherein the call back option is provided in
response to a first call from the customer to the automatic call distributor over a first
communications link[[,]]; and
for establishing a second call between the customer and the automatic call
distributor over a second communications link based on an acceptance of the call back
option by the customer, wherein the second call is initiated by the customer and
bypasses one or more call waiting queues associated with the call center such that the
second call is given a priority greater than one or more pending calls associated with
the call center.

20. (Currently Amended) The call center of claim 19, wherein the call back
service platform is further for ~~providing the customer with a call back option of having~~
~~the call center call back the customer during a specified time period, for determining the~~
acceptance of the call back option by the customer, and ~~for establishing the second call~~

~~during the specified time period based on the determination of the acceptance of the call back option.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a call back option to a customer of a call center, comprising:

a telecommunications switch for detecting a first call from the customer to the call center;

a service control point in communication with the telecommunications switch for determining whether, in response to detection of the first call by the telecommunications switch, the call center is busy; and

an intelligent peripheral in communication with the telecommunications switch for receiving the first call when it is determined by the service control point that the call center is busy and, in response thereto, for providing the customer with a call back option to call back the call back center during a specified time period and for determining an acceptance of the call back option by the customer[[,]]:

wherein the telecommunications switch is for routing the first call to the call center over a first communications link when it is determined by the service control point that the call center is not busy, and

wherein the service control point is for establishing a second call between the customer and the call center during the specified time over a second communications link between the telecommunications switch and the call center based on the determination of the acceptance of the call back option by the customer, wherein the second call is initiated by the customer and bypasses one or more call waiting queues

associated with the call center such that the second call is given a priority greater than one or more pending calls associated with the call center.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the service control point is for determining whether the call center is busy based on the time of the first call from the customer.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the service control point is for determining whether the call center is busy based on an indication from the call center.

24-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a call back option to a customer of a call center, comprising:

routing a first call from the customer to the call center over a first communications link;

providing the customer with a customer call back option to call back the call back center during a specified time period in response to the first call from the customer to the call center; and

establishing a second customer-initiated call between the call center and the customer during the specified time over a second communications link based on an acceptance of the customer call back option by the customer[[],]; and

bypassing one or more call waiting queues associated with the call center such that wherein the second call is given a priority greater than one or more pending calls associated with the call center.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein providing the customer with a call back option includes providing the customer with a call back option when the call center is busy.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein providing the customer with a call back option when the call center is busy includes providing the customer with a call back option based on the time of the first call from the customer.

31 (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein providing the customer with a call back option when the call center is busy includes providing the customer with a call back option based on an indication from the call center.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein providing the customer with a call back option includes:

playing a message for the customer regarding the call back option; and determining the acceptance of the call back option by the customer.

33-36. (Canceled)